AN ACCOUNT OF THE TAKING AND SURRENDERING OF *PONTEFRACT CASTLE*, AND OF THE Surprisal of General *Rainsborough* in his Quarters at *Doncaster*, *Anno* 1648.

Written upon the Occasion of Prince *Eugene's* Surprising M. *Villeroy* at *Cremona*.

In a Letter to a FRIEND.

By Capt. THO. PAULDEN.

——— *Sic parvis componere magna solebam.* VIRG.

In truth, All that Adventure in the Taking and Defending That Place, should be preserv'd by a very particular Relation, for the *Honour of all the Persons* who were engag'd in it. Ld *Clarendon's* HIST. Vol. III. Pt I. p. 183.

OXFORD,

Printed at the THEATRE: And Sold by *R. Clements*, and *S. Parker*. And by *J.* and *J. Rivington* in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard, *LONDON*.

MDCCXLVII.

This is a scarce & very valuable Tract
There are many spurious ones published, but this
is a real one

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE

READER.

THIS Account of the Taking and Surrendering of Pontefract-Caſtle, *&c. was written by a Gentleman of known Honour and Veracity, who was privy to the Deſign, as well as in the Action; it then cannot but furniſh us with the beſt Particulars of this memorable Affair, and is indeed what the Noble Hiſtorian deſir'd might be preſerv'd.*

The Chronology of Sir G. Wharton, *which is now added, will be of Uſe to the Curious in ſettling the Dates.*

TO THE

READER.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE TAKING AND SURRENDERING OF *PONTEFRACT CASTLE.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED your Letter, wherein you tell me, That the late News of Prince *Eugene*'s ſurpriſing Marſhal *Villeroy*, in his Quarters at *Cremona*, put your ſelf, and ſome of my Friends, in mind of the Surpriſe of General *Rainsborough*, at the Siege of *Pontefract Caſtle*, in the late Civil Wars of *England*. And I being the only Perſon now living, that was an Actor in it, you are pleaſed to deſire a particular Account of it; which, as far as I know, was never yet fully Publiſhed.

I APPEAL to you, and all that know me, if ever I had the Vanity to boaſt of it, or ſo much as mention it, but ſometimes at the Requeſt of a Friend, as I do now at yours; tho' I had rather refuſe to comply even with your Deſire, at this time, than be thought ſo vain as to make any Compariſon (other than of ſmall Things with great) between ſuch a particular Action in our own Country, and ſo publick and Glorious an one, as that of Prince *Eugene*, on the Stage of *Europe*; which failed but by one Accident, of having been yet much more glorious.

BUT this I may ſay without Vanity, That our Deſign was Honourable, not to kill a General, in the midſt of his Army, but to take him Priſoner, and thereby to ſave the Life of our own General, Sir *Marmaduke Langdale*, then a Priſoner, and condemned to die, under whoſe Command we had ſerved in the precedent War.

IT may not be unacceptable to you, being a *Yorkſhire* Man, to know the moſt minute Particulars of this Enterprize, we being all *Yorkſhire* Men, who had a Share in it.

AND

And first let me tell you how we took the Castle, which was a Garrison for the Parliament, as they call'd the Government, then Establish'd in a small part of the *House of Commons*, and a very small Number of the *Lords*, sitting at *Westminster*.

Pontefract, commonly called *Pomfret-Castle*, was thought the Greatest and Strongest Castle in *England*. It was the ancient Inheritance of the Dukes of *Lancaster*, called, *The Honour of Pomfret*: And it had the Honour to be the last Garrison in the War begun in 42. that held out for the King.

In the Year 1648. the first War being over, we, that had served the King in it, submitting to our common Fate, liv'd quietly in the Country, till we heard of an intended Invasion by Duke *Hamilton*: Then we met frequently, and resolved to attempt the Surprising this Castle, of which Colonel *Cotterel* was Governor for the Parliament, having under him a Garrison of an hundred Men, most of them Quartered in the Town of *Pomfret*, and in no Apprehension of an Enemy.

THE Deſign was laid by Colonel *Morice*, (who in his Youth had been Page to the Earl of *Strafford*) my two Brothers, who were Captains of Horſe, and my ſelf, Captain of Foot, and ſome others. We had then about Three hundred Foot, and Fifty Horſe, of our old Comerades, privately Lifted.

WE had ſecret Correſpondence with ſome in the Caſtle; Among the reſt, with a Corporal, who promiſed, on a certain Night, to be upon the Guard, and to ſet a Centinel, that would aſſiſt us, in Scaling the Walls by a Ladder, which we had provided, and brought with us. But the Corporal happened to be drunk at the hour appointed, and another Centinel was placed, where we intended to ſet our Ladder, who fired upon us, and gave the Alarm to the Garriſon. They appearing upon the Walls, our Men retired in haſte, leaving the Ladder in the Ditch; whereby the next Day they within knew, that it was no falſe Alarm, but that there had been a real Attempt to ſurpriſe the Caſtle.

THEY took not a Man of us; our Foot diſperſed themſelves in the Country; and half of our Horſe marched to Sir *Marmaduke Langdale*, who

who had then taken *Berwick* and *Carliſle*. The reſt, being Twenty or Thirty Horſe, kept in the Woods, while we ſent Spies into the Caſtle, and found that our Confederates within were not diſcovered, nor our Deſign betrayed, but only failed by the Corporal's being Drunk.

THE Ladder being found the next Morning, made the Governor call the Soldiers out of the Town, to lodge in the Caſtle: in order to which, he ſent his Warrants into the Country, for Beds to be brought in by a Day appointed.

WE had notice of it, and made uſe of the Occaſion. With the Beds came Colonel *Morice*, and Captain *William Paulden*, like Country Gentlemen, with Swords by their ſides; and about Nine Perſons more, dreſſed like plain Countrymen, and Conſtables, to guard the Beds, but arm'd privately with Pocket-Piſtols and Daggers.

UPON their Approach, the Draw-bridge was let down, and the Gates opened by our Confederates within. Colonel *Morice*, and thoſe who were with him, entred into the Caſtle. The Main-Guard was juſt within the Gate, where our Company threw down the

Beds, and gave a Crown to ſome Soldiers, bidding them fetch Ale, to make the reſt of the Guard drink; and as ſoon as they were gone out of the Gate, they drew up the Draw-bridge, and ſecured the reſt of the Guards, forcing them into a Dungeon hard by, to which they went down by about Thirty Stairs; and it was a Place that would hold Two or Three hundred Men.

THEN Captain *William Paulden* made one of the Priſoners ſhew him the way to the Governor's Lodging, where he found him newly laid down upon his Bed, with his Cloaths on, and his Sword, being a long Tuck, lying by him. The Captain told him, the Caſtle was the King's, and he was his Priſoner; but he, without anſwering any thing, ſtarted up, and made a thruſt at the Captain, and defended himſelf very bravely, till being ſore wounded, his Head and Arm cut in ſeveral places, he made another full and deſperate Puſh at the Captain, and broke his Tuck againſt the Bed-poſt; and then asked Quarter, which my Brother granted; and he, for the preſent, was put down among his own Soldiers, into the Dungeon.

NOTICE was immediately ſent to me, lying hard by, of the Taking of the Caſtle; upon which I marched thither with about Thirty Horſe, and, it being Market-day, we furniſhed ourſelves with all manner of Proviſions from the Town.

THERE came ſpeedily to us, in ſmall Parties, ſo many of our old Fellow-Soldiers, that our Garriſon at laſt was increaſed to Five hundred Men, which at the rendring of the Caſtle afterwards, were reduc'd to One hundred and forty.

WE found in the Caſtle a good quantity of Salt and Malt, with Four thouſand Arms, and good ſtore of Ammunition, ſome Cannon, and two Mortar-pieces. We expected a Siege very ſuddenly, and got what Proviſions of Corn, and Cattle, we could, out of the Country.

PARTICULARLY in one Sally, having notice that there were at *Knotingly*, three Miles from the Caſtle, Three hundred head of Cattle, bought up in the North, going into the South, under a Guard of two Troops of Horſe, we marched out at Night with Thirty Horſe, and Half a dozen Foot, with Half-pikes to drive the Cattle. We faced the Trooos that guarded

them, while our Foot drove the Herd towards the Caſtle; then we followed, and kept betwixt them and danger, the Enemy not daring to Charge us, and ſo we came all ſafe with our Purchaſe into the Caſtle. This, and other Proviſions, we got in, by ſeveral Parties almoſt every Night, enabled us to keep the Caſtle above nine Months, though we had not one Months Proviſion, when we were firſt Beleaguer'd.

For in a very ſhort time after, we were beſieged by Sir *Edward Rhodes*, and Sir *Henry Cholmondly*, and Five thouſand Men of regular Troops: But we kept a Gate open on the South-ſide of the Caſtle, which was covered by a ſmall Garriſon, we placed in an Houſe called *New-Hall*, belonging to the Family of *Pierrepoint*, being about a Muſquet-ſhot or two from the Caſtle.

Some time after, we heard Duke *Hamilton* was beaten at *Preſton* in *Lancaſhire*, and Sir *Marmaduke Langdale* taken Priſoner, and brought to *Nottingham-Caſtle*. He was General of the *Engliſh* at *Preſton*, who behaved themſelves bravely, and, in truth, did all that was done there. He had alſo, as I ſaid, been our General; we had his Commiſſion for taking the

Caſtle,

Caſtle, as he had the Prince of *Wales*'s, and we were reſolved to run any hazard to releaſe him: For it was commonly given out, that they intended to bring him before *Pomfret-Caſtle*, and to Execute him in our ſight, if we would not immediately ſurrender.

It being like to prove a tedious Siege, General *Rainsborough* was ſent from *London* by the Parliament, to put a ſpeedy End to it. He was eſteemed a Perſon of great Courage and Conduct, exceeding zealous and fierce in their Cauſe, and had done them great Service by Land, and alſo at Sea, where he was for a time one of their Admirals. His head Quarters were for the preſent at *Doncaſter*, being Twelve Miles from *Pomfret*, with Twelve hundred Foot; a Regiment of his Horſe lay Three or Four Miles on the Eaſt of *Doncaſter*, and another at the like diſtance on the Weſt.

Captain *William Paulden*, who commanded all the few Horſe in the Caſtle, laid a Deſign to ſurpriſe him in his Quarters at *Doncaſter*; not to kill him, but to take him Priſoner, and exchange him for our own General, Sir *Marmaduke Langdale*; and it was only his own fault that he was not brought Priſoner to the Caſtle.

The

The Deſign ſeemed the more feaſible, becauſe the General and his Men were in no Apprehenſion of any Surpriſe; the Caſtle being Twelve Miles off, cloſely beſieged, and the only Garriſon for the King in *England*.

In order to execute this our purpoſe, Captain *William Paulden* made choice of Two and twenty Men, ſuch as he moſt confided in. At Midnight, being well horſed, we marched through the Gate, that was kept open, over the Meadows, between two of the Enemy's Horſe-Guards, whom, by the favour of the Night, we paſſed undiſcovered. Early the next Morning we came to *Mexborough*, a Village Four Miles Weſt above *Doncaſter*, upon the River *Don*, where there was a Ferry-boat. There we reſted, to refreſh our ſelves and our Horſes, till about Noon.

In the mean time we ſent a Spy into *Doncaſter*, to know, if there was any Diſcovery of a Party being out, and to meet us, as ſoon as it was dark, at *Cunsborough*, a Mile from *Doncaſter*; which he did, and aſſured us, there was no Alarm taken by the Town, and that a Man would meet us at Sun-riſe, who would give us Notice if all was quiet. Thither the

Man

Man came accordingly; the Sign he was to bring with him, to be known by, was a Bible in his hand.

Captain *William Paulden* then divided his Two and twenty Men into Four Parties; Six were to attack the Main-Guard, Six the Guard upon the Bridge; Four were ordered to General *Rainsborough*'s Quarters; and the Captain, with the remaining Six, after he had ſeen the Four enter the General's Lodgings, was to beat the Streets, and keep the Enemy from aſſembling.

We preſently forcing the firſt Barricades, and the Guards there diſperſing into the Country, all the reſt ſucceeded as we wiſh'd; the Main-Guard was ſurpriſed, we entring the Guard-Chamber, and getting between them and their Arms, bid them ſhift for their Lives; the ſame was done to the Guard upon the Bridge, their Arms being thrown into the River.

The Four that went to General *Rainsborough*'s Lodging, pretended to bring Letters to him from *Cromwell*, who had then beaten the *Scots*; they met at the Door the General's Lieutenant, who conducted them up to his Chamber,

Chamber, and told him, being in Bed, that there were ſome Gentlemen had brought him Letters from General *Cromwell*. Upon which, they delivered *Rainsborough* a Packet, wherein was nothing but blank Paper. Whilſt he was opening it, they told him, he was their Priſoner, but that not a Hair of his Head ſhould be touched, if he would go quietly with them. Then they diſarm'd his Lieutenant, who had innocently conducted them to his Chamber, and brought them both down Stairs. They had brought a Horſe ready for General *Rainſborough*, upon which they bid him mount; he ſeem'd at firſt willing to do it, and put his Foot in the Stirrup; but looking about him, and ſeeing none but four of his Enemies, and his Lieutenant and Centinel (whom they had not diſarm'd) ſtanding by him; he pull'd his Foot out of the Stirrup, and cry'd *Arms, Arms*. Upon this, one of our Men, letting his Piſtol and Sword fall, becauſe he would not kill him, catcht hold of him, and they grappling together, both fell down in the Street. Then General *Rainsborough*'s Lieutenant catching our Man's Piſtol that was fallen, Captain *Paulden*'s Lieutenant, who was on Horſeback, diſmounts and runs him through the Body, as he was cocking the Piſtol. Another of our Men run

General

General *Rainsborough* into the Neck, as he was ſtruggling with him that had caught hold of him; yet the General got upon his Legs with our Man's Sword in his Hand; but Captain *Paulden*'s Lieutenant ran him through the Body, upon which he fell down dead. *

THEN all our Parties met, and made a noiſe in the Streets, where we ſaw Hundreds of their Soldiers in their Shirts, running in the Fields to ſave themſelves, not imagining how ſmall our Number was. We preſently marched over the Bridge, the direct way to *Pomfret Caſtle*, and all ſafely arrived there; carrying with us Forty or Fifty Priſoners, whom we

* *Vide* Ld *Clarendon's* Hiſtory, 8o Edit. vol. 3. pag. 189. where his Lordſhip's Account agrees in general with this, yet the above Circumſtances of the Fray fully acquit theſe gallant Gentlemen from the Charge of Murder.

Whitelock, pag. 346. ſays, That Forty Horſe ſallied out of *Pontefract* towards *Doncaſter*, where they kill'd the Centinel; then Three of them rode on to *Doncaſter*, and ask'd for Colonel *Rainsborough*'s Quarters, and came to his Chamber, there call'd to him, and ſaid, *they had a Letter from Lieutenant General* Cromwell.

That the Colonel roſe, and open'd the Door to them (expecting ſuch a Letter that Morning) and preſently the Three *Pontefract* Soldiers fell upon him, ſhot him into the Neck, and another ſhot him into the Heart, with other Wounds, and left him dead, eſcaping away without any Alarm given.

met by Eight or Ten in a Company. We took no Priſoners at *Doncaſter*; nor were any kill'd, or ſo much as hurt there, but General *Rainsborough* and his Lieutenant, and they too very much againſt our Will, becauſe our main Intention was defeated thereby, which, I told you, was to exchange and redeem our own General *Langdale*; who however, the very Night before, had fortunately made his own Eſcape, and lived to ſee King *Charles* the Second's Reſtoration, and to be made a Peer of *England* for his eminent Services in the War.

But to go on with our Affairs at *Pomfret*, ſeeing you have alſo the Curioſity to know what became of us at laſt. After the Defeat of the *Scots* Army by *Cromwell*, at *Preſton* and *Wiggan* in *Lancaſhire*, Major General *Lambert* came againſt us; and then we were cloſe ſhut up, without hope of Relief, and our Proviſions very nigh ſpent, which put us upon Capitulating; and they threw Papers over the Walls, offering Honourable Conditions, ſaving that Six Perſons were to be excepted from any Benefit of the Articles, who were not to be named till after the Articles were Signed by the Governor.

The Governor, Colonel *Morice*, hereupon call'd the Officers of the Caſtle together; and we unanimouſly promiſed, we would never agree to deliver any Perſon up, without his Conſent.

Upon this Promiſe, our Governor ſent ſix Officers out of the Caſtle, to Treat with the ſame Number named by Major General *Lambert*. Of our number I was one. When we met, we told them, That we came to Capitulate about the Surrender of the Caſtle, but they could not expect that we would deliver ourſelves up to Execution. Upon which, Colonel *Bright*, the firſt of their Commiſſioners, told us, That he had Authority, from Major General *Lambert*, to engage, That none of us, that Treated, ſhould be any of the excepted Perſons: We told him, That perhaps the Governor might be one of them: He anſwered, That he did believe the Major General did not ſo much look upon the Governor, as ſome that had betray'd the Caſtle to us, when it was taken. So we parted for that time, without concluding any thing.

AT our return to the Caſtle, we acquainted the Governor with all had paſſed; ſome of our Commiſſioners telling him, that Colonel *Bright* had engaged he ſhould not be excepted. The Governor ask'd me, what I thought of it. I plainly told him, I thought he was intended to be one, and repeated to him the very Words that Colonel *Bright* had ſpoke, which made me ſuſpect he would be excepted, becauſe he had not engaged that the Governor ſhould not be, as he had, that we that Treated ſhould not, but left it ambiguous. Then one of our Commiſſioners told him, that Lieutenant-Colonel *Crooke* had aſſured him, that our Governor was none of the Excepted; upon which, he reſolved we ſhould go out, and conclude, ſaying generouſly, that if he was excepted, he would take his Fortune, and would not have ſo many worthy Gentlemen periſh for his ſake.

UPON this, I deſired the Governor to ſend ſome body elſe in my place, for I had promiſed ſolemnly, I would never conſent to deliver him up; (which he would have had me ſworn to before, but I told him, my Word ſhould be as good as my Oath.) So they went out, and concluded, and Signed

the

the Articles; and after Signing of them, they brought to us, in the Caſtle, the Names of the excepted Perſons, whereof the Governor was the Firſt:

Their Names were,

Colonel Morice, *our Governor,*

Allen Auſtwick, *Captain* W. Paulden's *Lieutenant, as one of thoſe that Kill'd* Rainsborough.

Blackborne, *Captain* Paulden's *Cornet; for the ſame Reaſon.*

Major Aſhby, *Enſign* Smyth, *Serjeant* Floyd, } *Theſe Three had been our Correſpondents in the Caſtle, when we Surpriſed it.*

We were not obliged to deliver up any of theſe Excepted Perſons, but they had liberty to make their Eſcape if they could, which they attempted on Horſeback, the next Evening, by charging through the Enemies Army. At that very time their Guard unluckily happened to be relieving, ſo that the Number was doubled they were to break through.

The

THE Governor and *Blackborne* charged thro', and escaped, but were taken in *Lancashire* about ten days after, (seeing for a Ship to pass beyond Sea) and brought to *York*, where they were both Executed.

SMYTH was kill'd in the Attempt. *Austwick*, *Ashby*, and *Floyd*, were forced back into the Castle, where they hid themselves in a private Sally-port (which we had cover'd, designing to take the Castle again by it, when there should happen a fair Opportunity.) Thence they made their Escape the next Night, after the Castle was surrender'd, and all lived till after the King's Return.

THUS ended the Siege of *Pomfret-Castle*, which was soon after demolished; so that now there remains nothing of that magnificent Structure, but some Ruins of the great Tower, where, the Tradition is, King *Richard* the Second was murthered.

I CRAVE your Leave to add, what I had forgot to mention before, that we kept the Castle, till after King *Charles* the First was Martyr'd: When we solemnly proclaim'd King

Charles

Charles the Second in it; and did not deliver it up till almoſt two Months after.

BE pleaſed that I inform you farther, that my Brother, Captain *William Paulden*, died of a Fever in the Caſtle, a Month before it was ſurrender'd; my other Brother, Captain *Timothy Paulden*, was killed in the Fight at *Wiggan*, being then Major of Horſe to Colonel *Matthew Boynton*, under the Command of the Earl of *Derby*. I myſelf followed the Fortune of King *Charles* in his Exile, and was ſent into *England*, on ſeveral Occaſions for his Majeſty's Service. I was once betray'd, and brought before *Cromwell*; but I denied my Name, and nothing could be proved againſt me: However he ſent me to the *Gate-houſe* in *Weſtminſter*, from whence I made my Eſcape, with our old Friend *Jack Cowper*, by throwing Salt and Pepper into the Keeper's Eyes; which, I think, has made me love Salt the better ever ſince; as you, and all my Friends, know I do, with whom I have eaten many a Buſhel.

I WENT again beyond Sea, and, upon King *Charles* the Second's Reſtauration, returned into

into *England*, accompanied with my old Companion, Loyalty, and with the uſual Companion of that, Poverty. The firſt never quitted me; the other, by the Favour and Bounty of the Duke of *Buckingham*, was made tolerable.

And having now ſurvived moſt of my old Acquaintance, and, as I verily believe, All, who had any Part in the foregoing Story, being in the 78th Year of my Age, I am glad I have had this Occaſion of ſhewing my ancient Reſpects and Friendſhip for you, by obeying your Commands in this Particular; though you will not let me have the Honour to mention your Name otherwiſe, than as a *Yorkſhire* Man, and a Lover of them, who had Faithfully Served King *Charles* the Second, as you yourſelf had done.

After all, perhaps it will not be thought amiſs, by our Countrymen of *Yorkſhire* at leaſt, that I have lived on to this time; if for nothing elſe, yet for this, that when the Memorable Action at *Cremona* ſhall hereafter be ſpoken of, with the Honour it deſerves,

ſerves, this Attempt at *Doncaſter* may not be altogether forgotten by Poſterity.

SIR, I am

Your moſt Faithful

London, March 31. 1702. *Humble Servant,*

THOMAS PAULDEN.

What follows was taken from some Papers of Sir Marmaduke Langdale, *communicated by the Right Honourable the Lord* Langdale.

SIR *Marmaduke Langdale* retreated with Duke *Hamilton*, till they came to *Uxeter* in *Staffordshire*, at which Place Duke *Hamilton* resolved to deliver himself a Prisoner to the Enemy, which Sir *Marmaduke Langdale* would not do; but endeavouring to make an Escape with about Ten more, were taken Prisoners near *Nottingham*, by a Party from thence, and were brought to that Castle.

The short Chronology of Sir George Wharton (*a Royalist*) *runs thus:*

1648. *June* 3. *Pontefract Castle* surpriz'd.—*August* 17. Duke *Hamilton* defeated.—*Octob.* 29. Colonel *Rainsborough* slain.—*Novemb.* 13. Sir *Marmaduke Langdale* escap'd from *Nottingham Castle*.—*Novemb.* 14. Colonel *Rainsborough* buried at *Wapping*.—*March* 22. *Pontefract Castle* surrender'd.

BRITISH 5.06.70 MUSEUM

FINIS.